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Third Committee
Agenda item 72 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities annexed to that resolution, and bearing in mind article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[1] as well as other relevant existing international and regional standards and national legislation,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the effective promotion of the Declaration, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions 6/15 of 28 September 2007[2] and 19/23 of 23 March 2012,[3] by which the Council established and renewed the mandate of the Forum on Minority Issues, 16/6 of 24 March 2011[4] and 25/5 of 11 April 2014[5] on the mandate of the Independent Expert on minority issues, 18/3 of 29 September 2011 on the panel to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the

[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. I, sect. A.
[3] Ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.
[4] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.
[5] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

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adoption of the Declaration[6] and 22/4 of 21 March 2013 on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,[7]

Affirming that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and dialogue between these minorities and the rest of society, as well as the constructive and inclusive development of practices and institutional arrangements to accommodate diversity within societies, contribute to political and social stability and the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts involving the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8] of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[9] is an integral part, recalling that the Goals and targets seek to realize the human rights of all, and stressing the need for Member States to integrate the 2030 Agenda into their respective national policies and development frameworks, as appropriate, to promote the effective implementation of, and follow-up and review to, the 2030 Agenda, in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

Expressing concern at the frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts involving persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and that such persons often suffer disproportionately from the effects of conflicts resulting in the violation of their human rights and are particularly vulnerable to displacement through, inter alia, population transfers, revocation of previously held identity documents, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Emphasizing the important role that national institutions can play in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as well as in early warning and awareness-raising measures to address problems regarding minority situations,

Emphasizing also the need for reinforced efforts to meet the goal of the full realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by addressing economic and social conditions and marginalization, as well as to end any type of discrimination against them,

Emphasizing further the importance of recognizing and addressing multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the compounded negative impact upon the enjoyment of their rights,

Emphasizing the fundamental importance of human rights education, training and learning as well as of dialogue, including intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and interaction among all relevant stakeholders and members of society on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as an integral part of the development of society as a whole, including the sharing of best practices such as for the promotion of

[6] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

[7] Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

[8] Resolution 70/1.

[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.

mutual understanding of minority issues, managing diversity by recognizing plural identities and promoting inclusive and stable societies as well as social cohesion therein,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an important role to play regarding the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities by, inter alia, taking due account of, and giving effect to, the Declaration,

Welcoming the publication entitled *Promoting and Protecting Minority Rights: A Guide for Advocates*[10] by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which provides information on main actors working on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in the United Nations and in key regional organizations and which constitutes a valuable tool for advocates working on this issue worldwide,

Recognizing the important role played by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues in promoting the implementation of the Declaration,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law, as proclaimed in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,[11] and draws attention to the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[12] including the provisions on forms of multiple discrimination;

2. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration, including through the encouragement of conditions for the promotion of their identity, the provision of adequate education and the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country, without discrimination, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so;

3. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, inter alia, constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures, for the promotion and implementation of the Declaration, and appeals to States to cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally, in particular on the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, in accordance with the Declaration, in order to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

4. *Calls upon* States, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Declaration and to ensuring the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, to take appropriate measures by, inter alia:

(a) Reviewing any legislation, policy or practice that has a discriminatory or disproportionately negative effect on persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with a view to considering its amendment;

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[10] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XIV.1.

[11] Resolution 47/135, annex.

[12] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

(b) Developing awareness-raising and training initiatives, including for public officials, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, on the rights contained in the Declaration;

(c) Dedicating departments, sections or focal points within existing institutions or considering the establishment of specialized national institutions or agencies to address the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

(d) Undertaking initiatives to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities are aware of and able to exercise their rights as set out in the Declaration and in other international human rights obligations and commitments;

5. *Recommends* that States and other relevant actors ensure to the fullest extent possible that the Declaration is translated into all minority languages and disseminated widely;

6. *Recommends* that States ensure that all measures taken with a view to implementing the Declaration are, to the fullest extent possible, developed, designed, implemented and reviewed with the full, effective and equal participation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

7. *Calls upon* States to give special attention to the situation and specific needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities belonging to minorities while promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

8. *Encourages* States, in their follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to include aspects relating to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in their national plans of action and, in this context, to take forms of multiple discrimination fully into account;

9. *Calls upon* States to integrate the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as effective non-discrimination and equality for all, into strategies for the prevention and resolution of conflicts involving these minorities, while ensuring their full and effective participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of such strategies;

10. *Recommends* that States adopt holistic, inclusive and non-discriminatory security and policing strategies, which are important elements in preventing and combating discrimination and violence against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including racial profiling, and encourages States to develop and implement these strategies with the participation of the minority communities and incorporate them into wider law enforcement and protection strategies and ensure equal and effective access to justice;

11. *Condemns* all acts of violence perpetrated by terrorist and associated armed groups against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

12. *Recognizes* that women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities are exposed to both gender-based forms of

violence and violence on the grounds of their belonging to minorities in conflict and post-conflict situations, and urges States to take special measures to empower women and girls and to protect them from all forms of violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence;

13. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection and care of children belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities who are at risk of or have experienced violence, in accordance with relevant obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[13]

14. *Expresses* its appreciation for the successful completion, in November 2014, of the seventh session of the Forum on Minority Issues, on the theme "Preventing and addressing violence and atrocity crimes targeted against minorities", which, through the widespread participation of stakeholders, provided an important platform for promoting dialogue on this topic and, as part of its outcome, produced recommendations to prevent violence and other serious crimes, to address ongoing violence and post-violence situations,[14] and encourages States to take into consideration the relevant recommendations of the Forum;

15. *Invites* States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions as well as academics and experts on minority issues to continue to participate actively in the sessions of the Forum;

16. *Reaffirms* that the universal periodic review, as well as the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, constitute important mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in that regard calls upon States to effectively follow up on accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and further encourages States parties to give serious consideration to the follow-up to treaty body recommendations on the matter;

17. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the work that has been done and the important role played in raising the level of awareness of and in giving added visibility to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and for her guiding role in the preparations for and the work of the Forum, which contributes to efforts to improve cooperation and coordination among all United Nations mechanisms relating to the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

18. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated to her, to provide her with all the necessary information requested and to seriously consider responding promptly and favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries in order to enable her to fulfil her duties effectively;

19. *Encourages* the specialized agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to develop regular dialogue and cooperation with the mandate holder as well as to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[14] See A/HRC/28/77.

20. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to promote, within his mandate, the implementation of the Declaration, and to engage in a dialogue with Governments for that purpose and regularly update and disseminate widely the United Nations Guide for Minorities;

21. *Welcomes* the inter-agency cooperation among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on minority issues, led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and urges them to further increase their coordination and cooperation by, inter alia, developing policies on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, drawing also on relevant outcomes of the Forum and taking into account the work of relevant regional organizations;

22. *Takes note in particular*, in this regard, of the initiatives and activities of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities, coordinated by the Office of the High Commissioner and aimed at enhancing dialogue and cooperation between relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and invites the network to continue cooperating with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to consult and engage with persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and civil society actors;

23. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in particular those from developing countries, in minority-related activities organized by the United Nations, in particular the activities of its human rights bodies and of the Forum, and in doing so to give particular attention to ensuring the participation of young people and women;

24. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the decision of the Human Rights Council to establish a special fund for the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in, inter alia, the Forum on Minority Issues,[15] aiming to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders, with particular attention being paid to participants from least developed countries, and calls upon States to support the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the Forum on Minority Issues and, to that end, to make voluntary contributions to the special fund;

25. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including in the context of the prevention and resolution of disputes and conflicts, to assist in resolving existing or potential situations involving minorities;

26. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, as well as special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations and rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and, in this regard, to take into consideration relevant recommendations of the Forum;

[15] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1).

27. *Invites* the United Nations mechanisms and bodies, the specialized agencies and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the protection of rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by strengthening cooperation in respect of information gathering and improving the information flow between themselves and with States;

28. *Encourages* regional intergovernmental bodies, within their respective regions, to promote greater attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities by, inter alia, actively raising awareness of and promoting the Declaration in their work, encouraging its implementation at the national level and considering the creation of thematic and/or special mechanisms on this issue;

29. *Encourages* national human rights institutions to pay due attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities by, inter alia, considering the establishment of, for instance, a department, section or focal point within their secretariats to address those rights and to play a role in stopping violence, including by monitoring situations of potential threats for persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and by investigating and reporting episodes of targeted violence against persons belonging to minorities, including, when necessary, to regional and international bodies;

30. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote awareness of the Declaration and to review the extent to which it integrates the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the Declaration into its work, as well as to inform persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities about their rights;

31. *Welcomes* the reports of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and their special focus on addressing violence and atrocities against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities[16] and minorities and the criminal justice process;[17]

32. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report annually to the General Assembly and include recommendations for effective strategies for the better implementation of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

33. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;[18]

34. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note by the Secretary-General on racial discrimination and protection of minorities providing guidance for the United Nations system on how to address racial discrimination and the protection of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and aimed at, inter alia, integrating their rights into the work of the United Nations system at the global, regional and country levels, including through coordination mechanisms;

[16] A/69/266.
[17] A/70/212.
[18] A/70/255.

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on activities undertaken by Member States, the Office of the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, relevant United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders to enhance the implementation of the Declaration and to ensure the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

36. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its seventy-second session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

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Cameroon:* draft resolution

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/105 of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/34 B of 20 November 2000 and 55/233 of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000, its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001 and its resolutions 58/176 of 22 December 2003, 59/183 of 20 December 2004, 60/151 of 16 December 2005, 61/158 of 19 December 2006, 62/221 of 22 December 2007, 63/177 of 18 December 2008, 64/165 of 18 December 2009, 66/162 of 19 December 2011 and 68/174 of 18 December 2013 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

Recalling further that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[2]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States.

[1] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36*, addendum (A/56/36/Add.1).

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Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

Taking note also of the holding of the thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth and fortieth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in N'Djamena from 19 to 23 December 2013, in Malabo from 29 July to 2 August 2014, in Bujumbura from 1 to 5 December 2014 and in Luanda from 1 to 5 June 2015,

Taking note further of the decision of the High Commissioner to launch a far-reaching organizational change initiative in the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to better integrating work at Headquarters and in the field,[4]

Noting the context of deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in the subregion, and in particular the challenges created by increasing and indiscriminate attacks and massive violations of human rights by Boko Haram against the civilian population in many countries of the Central African subregion and in the Lake Chad Basin countries,[5]

Noting also that the effective presence of the Office of the High Commissioner in the countries covered and continued dialogue with the authorities have generated an increased number of requests for assistance from States,[6]

Mindful of the vastness and diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within the subregion, and taking into account the need for more appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the subregion,[7]

1. *Welcomes* the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support provided for the establishment of the Centre by the host country;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the increasing activities of the Centre and the improved cooperation between the Centre and the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States and Rwanda;

4. *Encourages* the Centre to take into account the requested activities, needs and demands of the countries of the subregion in the elaboration and implementation of its strategic thematic priorities for the period 2014-2017;

5. *Also encourages* the Centre to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams of the subregion;

6. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits

[3] A/70/405.
[4] See A/70/36.
[5] See A/70/405.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid.

of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

7. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly[8] in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, taking note of the organizational change initiative in the Office of the High Commissioner, to continue to provide additional funds and human resources within the existing resources of the Office to enable the Centre to respond positively and effectively to the growing needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and in developing a culture of democracy and the rule of law in the Central African subregion;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

[8] Resolutions 61/158, 62/221, 63/177 and 64/165.

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Australia, Austria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming also that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

Stressing that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that Member States are responsible for organizing, conducting and ensuring transparent, free and fair electoral processes and that Member States, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request that international organizations provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose,

Recognizing the importance of fair, periodic and genuine elections, including in new democracies and countries undergoing democratization, in order to empower

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citizens to express their will and to promote successful transition to long-term sustainable democracies,

Recognizing also that Member States are responsible for ensuring transparent, free and fair elections, free of intimidation, coercion and tampering of vote counts, and that all such acts are sanctioned accordingly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 68/164 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling also all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the topic, including resolutions 19/11 of 22 March 2012,[1] 19/36 of 23 March 2012,[1] 22/10 of 21 March 2013[2] and 24/8 of 26 September 2013,[3]

Reaffirming that United Nations electoral assistance and support for the promotion of democratization are provided only at the specific request of the Member State concerned,

Noting with satisfaction that increasing numbers of Member States are using elections as a peaceful means of discerning the will of the people, which builds confidence in representational governance and contributes to greater national peace and stability, and which may contribute to regional peace and stability,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948,[4] in particular the principle that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, as well as the right freely to choose representatives through periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Reaffirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[7] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[8] and reaffirming also that no distinctions are permitted among citizens in the enjoyment of the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs on any grounds, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors,

Reaffirming also that the full and effective participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality and social inclusion, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[2] Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.

[4] Resolution 217 A (III).

[5] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[7] Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Stressing the importance, generally and in the context of promoting free and fair elections, of respect for the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and noting in particular the fundamental importance of access to information and media freedom, including through accessible and easy to understand formats for new information and communications technologies,

Noting that some countries are beginning to use online technology for balloting purposes, and reaffirming the right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online,

Recognizing the need for strengthening democratic processes, electoral institutions and national capacity-building in requesting countries, including the capacity to administer fair elections, promote voter education, the development of electoral expertise and technology and the participation of women on equal terms with men, take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective and full participation of all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, increase citizen participation and provide civic education, including to youth, in requesting countries in order to consolidate and regularize the achievements of previous elections and support subsequent elections,

Noting the importance of ensuring orderly, open, fair and transparent democratic processes that protect the rights to peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression and opinion,

Noting also that the international community can contribute to the creation of conditions which could foster stability and security throughout the pre-election, election and post-election periods in transitional and post-conflict situations,

Reiterating that transparency is a fundamental basis for free and fair elections, which contribute to the accountability of Governments to their citizens, which, in turn, is an underpinning of democratic societies,

Acknowledging, in this regard, the importance of international observation of elections for the promotion of free and fair elections and its contribution to enhancing the integrity of election processes in requesting countries, to promoting public confidence and electoral participation and to mitigating the potential for election-related disturbances,

Acknowledging also that extending invitations regarding international electoral assistance and/or observation is the sovereign right of Member States, and welcoming the decisions of those States that have requested such assistance and/or observation,

Recalling its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome", in which it welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Welcoming the support provided by Member States to the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations, inter alia, through the provision of electoral

experts, including electoral commission staff, and observers, as well as through contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance, the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Recognizing that electoral assistance, particularly through appropriate, sustainable, accessible and cost-effective electoral technology, can facilitate full access for persons with disabilities and supports the electoral processes of developing countries,

Recognizing also the coordination challenges posed by the multiplicity of actors involved in electoral assistance both within and outside the United Nations,

Welcoming the contributions made by international and regional organizations and also by non-governmental organizations to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization,

Recognizing the importance of the links that exist between development, peace, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance, including the holding of free and fair elections, and in this regard welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Commends* the electoral assistance provided upon request to Member States by the United Nations, and requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evolving needs and legislation of requesting countries to develop, improve and refine their electoral institutions and processes, including ensuring full access to all stages of the elections process for persons with disabilities, recognizing that the responsibility for organizing free and fair elections lies with Governments;

3. *Reaffirms* that the electoral assistance provided by the United Nations should continue to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral and independent manner;

4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, in his role as United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, to continue to regularly inform Member States about the requests received and the nature of any assistance provided;

5. *Requests* that the United Nations continue its efforts to ensure, before undertaking to provide electoral assistance to a requesting State, that there is adequate time to organize and carry out an effective mission providing such assistance, including the provision of long-term technical cooperation, that conditions exist to allow a free and fair election and that the results of the mission will be reported comprehensively and consistently;

6. *Notes* the importance of adequate resources for the administration of efficient and transparent elections at the national and local levels, and recommends that Member States provide adequate resources for those elections, including considering the possibility of establishing internal funding, where feasible;

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[9] Resolution 70/1.

[10] A/70/306.

7. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has the effective right and opportunity to participate in elections on an equal basis;

8. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected;

9. *Also calls upon* all States to enhance the political participation of women, accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women and, in all situations, promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men;

10. *Recommends* that, throughout the timespan of the entire electoral cycle, including before and after elections, as appropriate, on the basis of a needs assessment and in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting Member States, bearing in mind sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the United Nations continue to provide technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to help to strengthen their democratic processes, also bearing in mind that the relevant office may provide additional assistance in the form of mediation and good offices, upon the request of Member States;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the additional efforts being made to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and needs-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance, encourages those organizations to share knowledge and experience in order to promote best practices in the assistance they provide and in their reporting on electoral processes, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations that have provided observers or technical experts in support of United Nations electoral assistance efforts;

12. *Acknowledges* the aim of harmonizing the methods and standards of the many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in observing elections, and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation;

13. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance, and, bearing in mind that the Fund is currently close to depletion, calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the Fund;

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters and with the support of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue responding to the evolving nature of requests for assistance and the growing need for specific types of medium-term expert assistance aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capacity of the requesting Government, in particular by enhancing the capacity of national electoral institutions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Division with adequate human and financial resources to allow it to carry out its mandate, including to enhance the accessibility and diversity of the roster of electoral experts and the Organization's electoral institutional memory, and to continue to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is able to respond, within its mandate and in close coordination with the Division, to the numerous and increasingly complex and comprehensive requests from Member States for advisory services;

16. *Reiterates* the need for ongoing comprehensive coordination, under the auspices of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, between the Electoral Assistance Division, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure coordination and coherence and avoid duplication of United Nations electoral assistance;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to continue its democratic governance assistance programmes in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular those that promote the strengthening of democratic institutions and linkages between civil society and Governments;

18. *Reiterates* the role of civil society and the importance of its active engagement in the promotion of democratization, and invites Member States to facilitate the full participation of civil society in electoral processes;

19. *Also reiterates* the importance of reinforced coordination within and outside the United Nations system, and reaffirms the clear leadership role within the United Nations system of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, including in ensuring system-wide coherence and consistency and in strengthening the institutional memory and the development, dissemination and issuance of United Nations electoral assistance policies;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance, and on his efforts to enhance support by the Organization for the democratization process in Member States.

United Nations A/C.3/70/L.55

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 72 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: draft resolution

The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010, in which it recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, and 68/157 of 18 December 2013 entitled "The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation",

Reaffirming the previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, inter alia, Council resolutions 24/18 of 27 September 2013[1] and 27/7 of 24 September 2014,[2]

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[5] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[2] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53 A and corrigenda* (A/69/53/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. IV, sect. A.
[3] Resolution 217 A (III).
[4] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

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Discrimination against Women,[6] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[7] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[8]

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] including the reaffirmation of commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation therein,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992[10] and its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled "The future we want", and emphasizing the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 58/217 of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed the period from 2005 to 2015 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 61/192 of 20 December 2006, by which it established 2008 as the International Year for Sanitation, and 65/153 of 20 December 2010, by which it called upon Member States to support "Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015", and recalling its resolution 65/154 of 20 December 2010, by which it declared 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation,

Recalling the designation of 19 November as World Toilet Day, in the context of Sanitation for All, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/291 of 24 July 2013, in which the Assembly encouraged all Member States, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system and international organizations and other stakeholders, to approach the sanitation issue in a much broader context and to encompass all its aspects, including hygiene promotion, the provision of basic sanitation services, sewerage and wastewater treatment and reuse in the context of integrated water management,

Recalling also relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Panama Declaration, adopted at the third Latin American Sanitation Conference, in 2013, the Kathmandu Declaration, adopted at the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2013, the 2015 Dushanbe Declaration of the High-level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, the commitments made on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation at the high-level meeting on Sanitation and Water for All — in 2014 and the Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene adopted at the fourth AfricaSan Conference in 2015,

Recalling further general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)[11] and the statement on the right to sanitation of the Committee of 19 November 2010, as well

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[6] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[7] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[8] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[9] Resolution 70/1, annex.
[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.
[11] E/C.12/2002/11.

as the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Welcoming the work of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in the 2015 update[12] published by their Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation,

Welcoming also the fact that, according to Joint Monitoring Programme reports of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, the Millennium Development target on safe drinking water was formally met, while being deeply concerned, however, that, according to the 2015 Joint Monitoring Programme update, 663 million people still lack access to improved drinking water sources and that eight out of ten people still without improved drinking water sources live in rural areas,

Deeply concerned that the world missed the sanitation component of Millennium Goal 7 by almost 700 million people and that more than 2.4 billion people still do not have access to improved sanitation facilities, including more than 946 million people who still practice open defecation, which is one of the clearest manifestations of extreme poverty, while noting that 2.1 billion people have gained access to an improved sanitation facility since 1990,

Deeply concerned also that women and girls often face particular barriers in accessing water and sanitation and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities, such as education, work or leisure,

Deeply concerned further that the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services, including menstrual hygiene management, including in schools, and the widespread stigma associated with menstruation have a negative impact on gender equality and on women and girls' enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to education,

Deeply concerned that women and girls are particularly vulnerable at risk and exposed to attacks, sexual and gender-based violence, harassment and other threats to their safety while collecting household water and when accessing sanitation facilities outside of their homes or practicing open defecation,

Deeply alarmed that, every year, almost 700,000 children under 5 years of age die as a result of water and sanitation related diseases, and millions of schooldays are lost, as a result of water- and sanitation-related diseases, underscoring that progress on reducing child mortality and stunting is also linked to women's access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Reaffirming the responsibility of States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling the understanding by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation that the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are closely

[12] World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water*, Geneva, 2015.

related, but have distinct features which warrant their separate treatment in order to address specific challenges in their implementation and that sanitation too often remains neglected, if not recognized as a distinct right,

Recalling also that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and are inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity,

Acknowledging the importance of equal access to safe drinking water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of all human rights,

1. *Recognizes* that the human right to safe drinking water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use, and that the human right to sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity;

2. *Affirms* that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;

3. *Welcomes* Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, and that the corresponding targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 include important dimensions components of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;

4. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and takes note with appreciation in particular of his first reports on affordability of water and sanitation services[13] and on the analysis of the different types of water and sanitation services from the perspective of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;[14]

5. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in a non-discriminatory manner while eliminating inequalities in access, including for individuals belonging to groups at risk and to marginalized groups, on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture, religion and national or social origin or on any other grounds, with a view to progressively eliminating inequalities based on factors such as rural-urban disparities, residence in a slum, income levels and other relevant considerations;

(b) To ensure that the commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation are adequately integrated when implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the full implementation of Goal 6;

(c) To continuously monitor and regularly analyse the status of the realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

[13] A/HRC/30/39.
[14] A/70/203.

(d) To promote women's participation in decision-making on water and sanitation management and to ensure that a gender-based approach is adopted in relation to water and sanitation programmes, including measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls in collecting household water, in order to address the negative impact of inadequate water and sanitation services on the access of girls to education and to protect women and girls from being physically or sexually threatened or assaulted while collecting household water and when accessing sanitation facilities outside of their home or practicing open defecation;

(e) To progressively eliminate open defecation by adopting policies to increase access to sanitation for individuals belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups;

(f) To approach the sanitation issue in a much broader context, taking into account the need to pursue integrated approaches;

(g) To consult with communities on adequate solutions to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(h) To provide for effective accountability mechanisms for all water and sanitation service providers, both public and private, to ensure that they respect human rights and do not cause human rights violations or abuses;

6. *Invites* regional and international organizations to complement efforts by States to progressively realize the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

7. *Encourages* Member States to intensify global partnerships for sustainable development as a means to achieve and sustain the Goal and the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and highlights the need to develop adequate follow-up and review of progress on the agenda including on water and sanitation;

8. *Reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and to endeavour to take steps, individually and collectively, through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical cooperation, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including, in particular, the adoption of legislative and policy measures;

9. *Stresses* the important role of the international cooperation and technical assistance provided by States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 6 and targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3, and urges development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing and implementing development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action related to the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;

10. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-second session.

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Third Committee
Agenda item 72 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia and Spain: draft resolution

Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it adopted on 13 December 2006 and which entered into force on 3 May 2008, a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights and a development instrument,

Recalling its resolution 67/160, in which it requested the Secretary-General to take further actions to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the United Nations system in accordance with the Convention, including the retention and recruitment of persons with disabilities,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to improve full inclusion of persons with disabilities and continue the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines with respect to the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard, including the opening of the accessibility centres at the United Nations offices in New York and Bangkok,

Also noting that improvement in accessibility has been a core goal of the capital master plan since the commencement of the renovation of United Nations Headquarters, and recalling its resolution 69/250, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to address issues related to the accessibility of

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conference facilities as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session,

Noting further that the Secretariat-wide Inter-Departmental Task Force on Accessibility has contributed to promoting inclusive and accessible built environments, facilities, human resources, conferences and services at all United Nations premises,

1. *Affirms* that the United Nations has an important role to play in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, including by taking all appropriate measures to ensure that it provides accessibility and reasonable accommodation, bearing in mind that, in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reasonable accommodation is defined as necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to raise awareness about protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and to improve relevant regulations, facilities and services within the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, and regional offices to create non-discriminatory and accessible environments for persons with disabilities, including staff members, delegates and visitors with disabilities, bearing in mind the full range of disabilities as defined in article 1 of the Convention, and encourages Member States to support the Secretary-General in this regard;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to further promote awareness and understanding among United Nations staff members towards persons with disabilities, including recognition of their full potential and their contribution to the work of the United Nations;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, a comprehensive report, to be prepared from within existing resources, on:

(a) The status and application of existing regulations relating to reasonable accommodation and the status of facilities and services relating thereto and on areas that need improvement to ensure full accessibility, following universal design, and reasonable accommodation within the United Nations system, agencies, funds and programmes, and regional offices;

(b) Best practices and views of Member States, other international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, disabled persons' organizations and United Nations staff members with disabilities, on the provision of accessibility, following universal design, and reasonable accommodation;

(c) Recommendations on how to better coordinate, facilitate and monitor practical accessibility measures in order to provide reasonable accommodation, in a cost-effective manner, to meet the needs of persons with disabilities for their participation in meetings, conferences and services at United Nations premises.

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Agenda item 72 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Oman and Qatar: draft resolution

United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993,[2] which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and 51/102 of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling further its resolutions 60/153 of 16 December 2005, 67/162 of 20 December 2012, 68/241 of 27 December 2013 and 69/171 of 18 December 2014 on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993[3] and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

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Reaffirming that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting that the developments in the Middle East and North Africa have continued to generate growing demand for the services of the Centre, and recognizing that the report of the Secretary-General[4] indicates that regular budget resources have been allocated to reinforce the staffing capacity of the Centre, thereby enabling it to better respond to training and documentation demands in a more timely and adequate manner, and to help to fill the gaps in terms of expertise and relevant Arabic-language training materials,

Mindful of the vastness and the diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need for appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the successful assistance that the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region has provided through human rights capacity-building activities, technical assistance programmes and training programmes on combating human trafficking, human rights and media, human rights and diplomacy, human rights education and police training on human rights, as well as support to national human rights institutions and regional consultations on the topics of United Nations human rights mechanisms;

3. *Underlines* the Centre's role as a source for regional expertise and the need to meet an increasing number of requests for training and documentation, including in the Arabic language;

4. *Notes* that the increasing demand that has been placed on the Centre by Member States and other stakeholders reveals a growing recognition of its role and impact on strengthening human rights capacities in the region;

5. *Encourages* the continued engagement of the Centre to work with other United Nations regional offices to strengthen its work and to avoid duplication;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report, in accordance with existing rules and procedures, on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[4] A/70/414.

United Nations A/C.3/70/L.58

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 71
Right of peoples to self-determination

Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Eritrea, Libya, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 69/163 of 18 December 2014, and Human Rights Council resolutions 15/12 of 30 September 2010,[1] 15/26 of 1 October 2010,[2] 18/4 of 29 September 2011,[3] 21/8 of 27 September 2012,[4] 24/13 of 26 September 2013,[5] 27/10 of 25 September 2014[6] and 30/6 of 1 October 2015, as well as all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in this regard,

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions, in which, inter alia, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit or use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling further the relevant resolutions and international instruments adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/65/53/Add.1), chap. II.
[2] Ibid., chap. I.
[3] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.
[4] Ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[5] Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[6] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. IV, sect. A.

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Unity, inter alia, the Organization of African Unity Convention for the elimination of mercenarism in Africa,[7] as well as by the African Union,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States,

Reaffirming also that, by virtue of the principle of self-determination, all peoples have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development and that every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[8]

Welcoming the establishment of the open-ended intergovernmental working group of the Human Rights Council with the mandate of considering the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework, including the option of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies,

Alarmed and concerned at the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict,

Deeply concerned at the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the policy and economies of affected countries resulting from international criminal mercenary activities,

Extremely alarmed and concerned about recent mercenary activities in some developing countries in various parts of the world, including in areas of armed conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of the affected countries,

Convinced that, notwithstanding the way in which mercenaries or mercenary-related activities are used or the form that they take to acquire some semblance of legitimacy, they are a threat to peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and an obstacle to the enjoyment of all human rights by peoples,

1. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the work and contributions of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, including its research activities, and takes note with appreciation of its latest report;[9]

2. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing, protection and training are causes for grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

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[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1490, No. 25573.

[8] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[9] A/70/330.

3. *Recognizes* that armed conflict, terrorism, arms trafficking and covert operations by third Powers encourage, inter alia, the demand for mercenaries on the global market;

4. *Urges once again* all States to take the steps necessary and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to take legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right of peoples to self-determination, to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the right of peoples to self-determination;

5. *Requests* all States to exercise the utmost vigilance against any kind of recruitment, training, hiring or financing of mercenaries by private companies offering international military consultancy and security services, as well as to impose a specific ban on such companies intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes;

6. *Encourages* States that import the military assistance, consultancy and security services provided by private companies to establish regulatory national mechanisms for the registering and licensing of those companies in order to ensure that imported services provided by those private companies neither impede the enjoyment of human rights nor violate human rights in the recipient country;

7. *Emphasizes its utmost concern* about the impact of the activities of private military and security companies on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular when operating in armed conflicts, and notes that private military and security companies and their personnel are rarely held accountable for violations of human rights;

8. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider taking the action necessary to accede to or ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;[10]

9. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by those countries that received a visit by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries and the adoption by some States of national legislation that restricts the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries;

10. *Condemns* recent mercenary activities in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of those countries and the exercise of the right of their peoples to self-determination, and stresses the importance for the Working Group on the use of mercenaries of looking into sources and root causes, as well as the political motivations of mercenaries and for mercenary-related activities;

11. *Calls upon* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary involvement whenever and wherever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur and to bring to trial

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2163, No. 37789.

those found responsible or to consider their extradition, if so requested, in accordance with national law and applicable bilateral or international treaties;

12. *Condemns* any form of impunity granted to perpetrators of mercenary activities and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without distinction, to justice;

13. *Calls upon* Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate with and assist the judicial prosecution of those accused of mercenary activities in transparent, open and fair trials;

14. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the work and contributions made by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries, including its research activities, and takes note of its latest report;[11]

15. *Recalls* the holding of the fourth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies, expresses satisfaction at the participation of experts, including of the members of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries, as resource persons at the above-mentioned session, and requests the Working Group and other experts to continue their participation during the fifth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group;

16. *Welcomes* the holding of the panel on the phenomenon of foreign fighters, held in New York on 23 July 2015, and recognizes the efforts of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries in its organization;

17. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to continue the work already done by previous Special Rapporteurs on the use of mercenaries on the strengthening of the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries, taking into account the proposal for a new legal definition of a mercenary drafted by the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination in his report to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session;[12]

18. *Also requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to continue to study and identify sources and causes, emerging issues, manifestations and trends regarding mercenaries or mercenary-related activities and their impact on human rights, particularly on the right of peoples to self-determination;

19. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right of peoples to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by those activities;

20. *Recommends* that all Member States, including those confronted with the phenomenon of private military and security companies, as contracting States, States of operations, home States or States whose nationals are employed to work

[11] A/HRC/30/34 and Add.1.

[12] See E/CN.4/2004/15, para. 47.

for a private military and security company, contribute to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, taking into account the initial work done by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries;

21. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with the Working Group on the use of mercenaries in the fulfilment of its mandate;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide the Working Group on the use of mercenaries with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, both professional and financial, including through the promotion of cooperation between the Working Group and other components of the United Nations system that deal with countering mercenary-related activities, in order to meet the demands of its current and future activities;

23. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the present resolution and to report, with specific recommendations, to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session its findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;

24. *Decides* to consider at its seventy-first session the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

United Nations A/C.3/70/L.59

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 70 (a)
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, India, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] and other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling the provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2004/16 of 16 April 2004[4] and 2005/5 of 14 April 2005[5] and relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 7/34 of 28 March 2008,[6] 18/15 of 29 September 2011[7] and 21/33 of 28 September 2012,[8] as well as General Assembly resolutions 60/143 of 16 December 2005, 61/147 of 19 December 2006, 62/142 of 18 December 2007, 63/162 of 18 December 2008, 64/147 of 18 December 2009, 65/199 of

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 3* (E/2004/23), chap. II, sect. A.
[5] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.
[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. II.
[7] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.
[8] Ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. II.

Please recycle

21 December 2010, 66/143 of 19 December 2011, 67/154 of 20 December 2012, 68/150 of 18 December 2013 and 69/160 of 18 December 2014 on this issue, resolutions 61/149 of 19 December 2006, 62/220 of 22 December 2007, 63/242 of 24 December 2008, 64/148 of 18 December 2009, 65/240 of 24 December 2010, 66/144 of 19 December 2011, 67/155 of 20 December 2012 and 68/151 of 18 December 2013, entitled "Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action", and resolution 69/162 of 18 December 2014, entitled "A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action",

Acknowledging other important initiatives of the General Assembly aimed at raising awareness about the suffering of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including in the historical perspective, in particular regarding commemoration of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

Recalling the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and the Judgement of the Tribunal, which recognized as criminal, inter alia, the SS organization and all its integral parts, including the Waffen SS, through its officially accepted members implicated in or with knowledge of the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity connected with the Second World War, as well as other relevant provisions of the Charter and the Judgement,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,[9] in particular paragraph 2 of the Declaration and paragraph 86 of the Programme of Action, as well as the relevant provisions of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference of 24 April 2009,[10] in particular paragraphs 11 and 54,

Alarmed, in this regard, at the spread in many parts of the world of various extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, as well as racist extremist movements and ideologies,

Deeply concerned by all recent manifestations of violence and terrorism incited by violent nationalism, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling that in 2015 the international community celebrated the seventieth anniversary of victory over Nazism in the Second World War, and welcoming in this regard the special solemn meeting held at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, on 5 May 2015,

Recalling also that the seventieth session of the General Assembly coincides with the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the Nuremberg Tribunal and the adoption of its Charter,

Stressing that these historic events established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to prevent future wars and save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

[9] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[10] See A/CONF.211/8, chap. I.

1. *Reaffirms* the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration[9] and of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference,[10] in which States condemned the persistence and resurgence of neo-Nazism, neo-Fascism and violent nationalist ideologies based on racial and national prejudice and stated that those phenomena could never be justified in any instance or in any circumstances;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, prepared in accordance with the request contained in General Assembly resolution 69/160;[11]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office for their efforts to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the maintenance by the Office of the database on practical means to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

4. *Expresses deep concern* about the glorification, in any form, of the Nazi movement, neo-Nazism and former members of the Waffen SS organization, including by erecting monuments and memorials and holding public demonstrations in the name of the glorification of the Nazi past, the Nazi movement and neo-Nazism, as well as by declaring or attempting to declare such members and those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement participants in national liberation movements;

5. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[3] to ensure that their legislation incorporates the provisions of the Convention, including those of article 4, and to make the declaration under its article 14, thus providing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with the competence to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within their jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation by a State party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention;

6. *Emphasizes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that "any commemorative celebration of the Nazi regime, its allies and related organizations, whether official or unofficial, should be prohibited by States",[12] also emphasizes that such manifestations do injustice to the memory of the countless victims of the Second World War and negatively influence children and young people, and stresses in this regard that it is important that States take measures, in accordance with international human rights law, to counteract any celebration of the Nazi SS organization and all its integral parts, including the Waffen SS;

7. *Expresses concern* about recurring attempts to desecrate or demolish monuments erected in remembrance of those who fought against Nazism during the Second World War, as well as to unlawfully exhume or remove the remains of such persons, and in this regard urges States to fully comply with their relevant obligations, inter alia, under article 34 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;[13]

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[11] A/70/321.

[12] Ibid., para. 73.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17512.

8. *Notes with concern* the increase in the number of racist incidents worldwide, including the rise of skinhead groups, which have been responsible for many of these incidents, as well as the resurgence of racist and xenophobic violence targeting, inter alia, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, including arson attacks on houses and vandalization of schools and places of worship;

9. *Reaffirms* that such acts may be qualified to fall within the scope of the Convention, that they may not be justified when they fall outside the scope of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association as well as the rights to freedom of expression and that they may fall within the scope of article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and may be subject to certain restrictions, as set out in articles 19, 21 and 22 of the Covenant;

10. *Condemns* without reservation any denial or attempt to deny the Holocaust;

11. *Welcomes* the call of the Special Rapporteur for the active preservation of those Holocaust sites that served as Nazi death camps, concentration and forced labour camps and prisons, as well as his encouragement of States to take measures, including legislative, law enforcement and educational measures, to put an end to all forms of Holocaust denial;[14]

12. *Calls upon* States to continue to take adequate steps, including through national legislation, in accordance with international human rights law, aimed at the prevention of hate speech and incitement to violence against persons belonging to vulnerable groups;

13. *Expresses deep concern* about attempts at commercial advertising aimed at exploiting the sufferings of the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War by the Nazi regime;

14. *Stresses* that the practices described above do injustice to the memory of the countless victims of crimes against humanity committed in the Second World War, in particular those committed by the SS organization and by those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement, and may negatively influence children and young people, and that failure by States to effectively address such practices is incompatible with the obligations of States Members of the United Nations under its Charter, including those related to the purposes and principles of the Organization;

15. *Also stresses* that such practices fuel contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and contribute to the spread and multiplication of various extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and in this regard calls for increased vigilance;

16. *Expresses concern* that the human rights and democratic challenges posed by extremist political parties, movements and groups are universal and no country is immune to them;

17. *Emphasizes* the need to take the measures necessary to put an end to the practices described above, and calls upon States to take more effective measures in

[14] A/69/334, para. 76.

accordance with international human rights law to combat those phenomena and extremist movements, which pose a real threat to democratic values;

18. *Encourages* States to adopt further measures to provide training for the police and other law enforcement bodies on the ideologies of extremist political parties, movements and groups whose advocacy constitutes incitement to racist and xenophobic violence, to strengthen their capacity to address racist and xenophobic crimes, to fulfil their responsibility of bringing to justice the perpetrators of such crimes and to combat impunity;

19. *Expresses deep concern* about the increased number of seats occupied by representatives of extremist political parties in a number of national and local parliaments, and emphasizes in this regard the need for all democratic political parties to base their programmes and activities on respect for human rights and freedoms, democracy and the rule of law and to condemn political messages that have the objective of fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

20. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the call of the Special Rapporteur to political leaders and parties to strongly condemn all messages disseminating ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination or xenophobia, and to refrain from forming coalitions with extremist parties of a racist or xenophobic character;[15]

21. *Expresses concern* that ethnic profiling and police violence against vulnerable groups discourage victims from seeking redress owing to distrust of the legal system, and in this regard encourages States to improve diversity within law enforcement agencies and impose appropriate sanctions against those within the public service found guilty of racially motivated violence or of using hate speech;

22. *Expresses deep concern* about an increase in reported cases of racist manifestations during sports events, committed by extremist groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and calls upon States, sports federations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen measures to prevent racist and xenophobic incidents at sporting events;

23. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to introduce into national criminal law a provision according to which committing an offence with racist or xenophobic motivations or aims constitutes an aggravating circumstance, allowing for enhanced penalties, and encourages those States whose legislation does not contain such provisions to consider that recommendation;

24. *Underlines* that the roots of extremism are multifaceted and must be addressed through adequate measures such as education, awareness-raising and the promotion of dialogue, and in this regard recommends the increase of measures to raise awareness among young people of the dangers of the ideologies and activities of extremist political parties, movements and groups;

25. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the particular importance of all forms of education, including human rights education, as a complement to legislative measures, and calls upon States to continue to invest in education, in both conventional and non-conventional curricula, inter alia, in order to transform

[15] A/70/321, para. 83.

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attitudes and correct ideas of racial hierarchies and superiority promoted by extremist political parties, movements and groups and counter their negative influence, as outlined by the Special Rapporteur;

26. *Emphasizes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur presented at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, in which he emphasized the importance of history classes in teaching the dramatic events and human suffering which arose out of the adoption of ideologies such as Nazism and Fascism;[16]

27. *Stresses* the importance of other positive measures and initiatives aimed at bringing communities together and providing them with space for genuine dialogue, such as round tables, working groups and seminars, including training seminars for State agents and media professionals, as well as awareness-raising activities, especially those initiated by civil society representatives, which require continued State support;

28. *Underlines* the positive role that relevant United Nations entities and programmes, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, can play in the aforementioned areas;

29. *Reaffirms* article 4 of the Convention, according to which States parties to that instrument condemn all propaganda and all organizations that are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or that attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination and, to that end, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of the Convention, inter alia:

(a) Shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, and incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof;

(b) Shall declare illegal and prohibit organizations, and organized and all other propaganda activities, that promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law;

(c) Shall not permit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, to promote or incite racial discrimination;

30. *Also reaffirms* that, as underlined in paragraph 13 of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence should be prohibited by law, that all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, or incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts, shall be declared offences punishable by law, in accordance with the international obligations of States, and that these prohibitions are consistent with freedom of opinion and expression;

[16] A/64/295, para. 104.

31. *Recognizes* the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including through the Internet, can play in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

32. *Expresses concern* about the increased use of the Internet to promote and disseminate racism, racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and in this regard calls upon States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to counter the dissemination of the above-mentioned ideas while respecting their obligations under articles 19 and 20 of the Covenant, which guarantee the right to freedom of expression and outline the grounds on which the exercise of this right can be legitimately restricted;

33. *Recognizes* the need to promote the use of new information and communications technologies, including the Internet, to contribute to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

34. *Also recognizes* the positive role that the media can play in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, promoting a culture of tolerance and representing the diversity of a multicultural society;

35. *Encourages* States, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to use all opportunities, including those provided by the Internet and social media, to counter, in accordance with international human rights law, the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and to promote the values of equality, non-discrimination, diversity and democracy;

36. *Encourages* those States that have made reservations to article 4 of the Convention to give serious consideration to withdrawing such reservations as a matter of priority, as stressed by the Special Rapporteur;

37. *Notes* the importance of strengthening cooperation at the regional and international levels with the aim of countering all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular regarding issues raised in the present resolution;

38. *Stresses* the importance of cooperating closely with civil society and international and regional human rights mechanisms in order to counter effectively all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and other similar extremist ideological movements that incite racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

39. *Encourages* States to adopt the legislation necessary to combat racism while ensuring that the definition of racial discrimination set out therein complies with article 1 of the Convention;

40. *Recalls* that any legislative or constitutional measures adopted with a view to countering extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and similar extremist ideological movements should be in conformity with the relevant international human rights norms, in particular articles 4 and 5 of the Convention and articles 19 to 22 of the Covenant;

41. *Also recalls* the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2005/5,[5] that the Special Rapporteur continue to reflect on this issue,

make relevant recommendations in his future reports and seek and take into account in this regard the views of Governments and non-governmental organizations;

42. *Encourages* States to consider including in their reports for the universal periodic review and to relevant treaty bodies information on the steps taken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including with the aim of implementing the provisions of the present resolution;

43. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-second session, reports on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular regarding paragraphs 4, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 24 and 25 above, based on the views collected in accordance with the request of the Commission, as recalled in paragraph 41 above;

44. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments and non-governmental organizations that have provided information to the Special Rapporteur in the course of the preparation of his reports to the General Assembly;

45. *Stresses* that such information is important for the sharing of experiences and best practices in the fight against extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and other extremist ideological movements that incite racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

46. *Encourages* Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the exercise of the tasks outlined in paragraph 43 above;

47. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and relevant actors to disseminate, as widely as possible, information regarding the contents of and the principles outlined in the present resolution, including through the media, but not limited to it;

48. *Decides* to remain seized of the issue.

United Nations A/C.3/70/L.60

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 71
Right of peoples to self-determination

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, China, Comoros, Ecuador, Egypt, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,[1] as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

[1] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Please recycle

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first[2] and previous sessions,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, including resolution 69/164 of 18 December 2014,

Reaffirming also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recalling its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, containing the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which, inter alia, upheld the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, in particular the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and with honour;

5. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue to give special attention to violations of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the question to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

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[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] A/70/314.

United Nations A/C.3/70/L.61

General Assembly

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3 November 2015

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Seventieth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 70 (b)
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

South Africa:* draft resolution

A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference,[1] and in this regard underlining the imperative need for their full and effective implementation,

Stressing that the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance has the same status as the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions in the human rights and social fields, and that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action remains a solid basis and the only instructive outcome of the World Conference, which prescribes comprehensive measures for combating all the scourges of racism and adequate remedies for victims,

Recalling the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination previously declared by the General Assembly, and regretting that the Programmes of Action for those Decades were not fully implemented and that their objectives are yet to be attained,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

Please recycle

Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

Underlining the intensity, magnitude and organized nature of slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, and the associated historical injustices, as well as the untold suffering caused by colonialism and apartheid, and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples continue to be victims of the cascading effects of those legacies,

Acknowledging the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit racial discrimination and racial segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights,

Emphasizing that, despite efforts in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary forms and manifestations, some of which manifest in violent forms,

Welcoming the efforts made by civil society in support of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling the appointment of the five independent eminent experts on 16 June 2003 by the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002, with the mandate to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to make appropriate recommendations thereon, and in this regard underlining the role played and still to be played by those independent eminent experts in mobilizing global political will for concrete action for the total elimination of all the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Underlining the primacy of the political will, international cooperation and adequate funding at the national, regional and international levels needed to address all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance for the successful implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolution 2142 (XXI) of 26 October 1966, in which it proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

Recalling also its resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, in which it designated 25 March as an annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Recalling further the suffering of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the need to honour their memory,

Noting that 2016 will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and looking forward to its commemoration,

Recognizing and affirming that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community,

I
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

1. *Reaffirms* the paramount importance of universal adherence to and the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[2] adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2106 A (XX) of 21 December 1965, in addressing the scourges of racism and racial discrimination;

2. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider acceding to the Convention, and States parties to make the declaration under article 14 of the Convention, as a matter of urgency;

3. *Underlines*, in the above context, that the provisions of the Convention do not respond effectively to contemporary manifestations of racial discrimination, in particular in relation to xenophobia and related intolerance, which is recognized as the rationale behind the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001;

4. *Takes note* of the acknowledgement by the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary structures of the existence of both procedural and substantive gaps in the aforementioned Convention, which must be filled as a matter of urgency, necessity and priority;

5. *Invites* the Human Rights Council, in conjunction with its Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the execution of its mandate, to continue to elaborate complementary standards in order to fill existing gaps in the Convention, in the form of new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary and resurgent racism, and in this regard, areas such as xenophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and incitement to national or ethnic and religious hatred that have been identified as constituting substantive gaps;

II
International Decade for People of African Descent

6. *Welcomes* the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, as contained in its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, and the celebratory launch of the Decade on 10 December 2014;

7. *Also welcomes* the adoption of the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent;[3]

8. *Requests* the Human Rights Council, through the Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, to submit a report on the work of the Working Group to the General Assembly, and in this regard invites the Chair of

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[3] Resolution 69/16, annex.

the Working Group to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly under the item entitled "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" at its seventy-first session;

III
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

9. *Welcomes* the positive response by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the requests made by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 6/22 of 28 September 2007,[4] and by the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/151 of 18 December 2013, to realign the work and the name of the erstwhile Anti-Discrimination Unit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and also welcomes its renaming as the Anti-Racial Discrimination Section and the realignment of its operational activities to focus exclusively on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Durban Declaration;[1]

10. *Also welcomes* the inclusion of the historic and landmark World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of 2001 among the 20 major achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993;[5]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandates of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[1] the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards;

IV
Group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

12. *Reiterates* its requests to the Secretary-General, pursuant to its resolution 68/151, to revitalize and reactivate the operational activities of the group of independent eminent experts;

13. *Reiterates* its invitation to the Human Rights Council, pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 68/151, to ensure the visibility, effective participation and optimal utilization of the vast knowledge and experience of the group of independent eminent experts within its subsidiary structures, charged with the mandate of and responsibility for the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in this regard requests the Council to submit a progress report to the Assembly at its seventy-first session;

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[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. I, sect. A.

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

V

Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

14. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General, in 1973, of the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as a funding mechanism that has been utilized for the implementation of the activities of the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination declared by the General Assembly, and in this regard appreciates the fact that the Trust Fund has also been utilized for the subsequent programmes and operational activities transcending the three Decades;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, a section outlining the progress in the implementation of paragraph 18 of its resolution 68/151, regarding the revitalization of the Trust Fund for the purpose of ensuring the successful implementation of the activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent and enhancing the effectiveness of the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

16. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals as well as other donors in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

VI

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

17. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[6] and encourages the Special Rapporteur, within his mandate, to continue to focus on the issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and incitement to hatred, which impede peaceful coexistence and harmony within societies, and to submit reports in this regard to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

18. *Reiterates* the invitation to the Special Rapporteur to consider examining national models of mechanisms that measure racial equality and their added value in the eradication of racial discrimination and to report on such challenges, successes and best practices in his next report;

VII

Follow-up and implementation activities

19. *Reiterates* its request to the Human Rights Council to develop and adopt a multi-year programme of activities to provide for the renewed and strengthened

[6] A/70/321.

outreach activities needed to inform and mobilize the global public in support of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to strengthen awareness of the contribution that it has made in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

20. *Calls upon* the Human Rights Council to commence preparations for the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including through the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Council to continue convening annual commemorative meetings of the Assembly and the Council during the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with the appropriate focus and themes, and to hold a debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide, with the participation of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this context encourages the participation of eminent personalities active in the field of racial discrimination, Member States and civil society organizations in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly and the Council, respectively;

23. *Decides* to remain seized of this priority matter at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Sierra Leone:* draft resolution

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Welcoming the entry into force on 6 December 2012 and the ongoing process of ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which mark a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative frameworks for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and displaced persons, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, violence and exploitation, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing, responding to and addressing sexual and gender-based violence,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.

[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

Please recycle

Gravely concerned about the rising number of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the continent,

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees,

Expressing grave concern about funding gaps in responding to various refugee situations in different parts of Africa, which has led to the deterioration in living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

Recalling the high-level segment on the theme "Enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa" of the sixty-fifth plenary session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, held in Geneva from 29 September to 3 October 2014, and the statement adopted on 30 September 2014 by States members of the Executive Committee,[5] and expressing deep concern that this particular event has not mobilized the necessary support for refugees and their hosting countries and communities,

Welcoming the hosting of the regional ministerial meeting on the Global Initiative on Somali Refugees, held in Addis Ababa on 20 August 2014, endorsing the Addis Ababa Commitment adopted during the ministerial meeting, and welcoming the pledging conference, held in Brussels on 21 October 2015, to mobilize support and resources needed to achieve solutions for Somali refugees through the creation of conditions conducive to safe and dignified returns as well as the enhancement of the sustainable integration of displaced persons,

Recalling the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006, and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the generosity, hospitality and spirit of solidarity of African countries that continue to host, despite their limited resources, a large number of refugees owing to the humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations, and in this regard expressing particular appreciation for the commitment and efforts of neighbouring countries in the recent humanitarian crises on the continent, welcoming efforts by African States that endeavour to promote voluntary repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees and to promote conditions conducive to the return and sustainable reintegration of refugees in their country of origin, and also acknowledging with appreciation the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations as well as the continuing efforts of donors, the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, regional organizations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners, with regard to, inter alia, integration, voluntary

[5] A/AC.96/1143, annex I.

return, reintegration and resettlement, in addressing the plight of refugees during the emergency,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Recognizing also the efforts of host States to protect and assist refugees on their territory and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem, in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Recognizing the need to expand resettlement opportunities,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation of pledges made by States at the intergovernmental ministerial event held in 2011 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[7] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[8]

2. *Calls upon* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to consider doing so as early as possible;

3. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall flows of refugees;

4. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has dramatically increased, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

5. *Welcomes* decisions EX.CL/Dec.854 (XXVI) and EX.CL/Dec.877 (XXVII) adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its twenty-sixth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 27 January 2015, and at its twenty-seventh ordinary session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 7 to 12 June 2015, respectively, on the humanitarian situation in Africa, insofar as they relate to persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

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[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

[7] A/69/339.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/70/12).

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the High Commissioner, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries hosting large numbers of refugees, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

8. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee communities, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly;

9. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration into new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

10. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption of the conclusion on civil registration by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its sixty-fourth session, held in Geneva from 30 September to 4 October 2013,[9] and recognizes the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

12. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-second session,[10] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts

[9] Ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/68/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.
[10] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

13. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern with regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

15. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

16. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

17. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

18. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity, which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all

measures necessary to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

19. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, and encourages African States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying and enforcing the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;[11]

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other entities concerned to continue and, where appropriate, to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical, legal and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers;

21. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

22. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

23. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement, where appropriate and feasible;

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

24. *Expresses serious concern* about the expected reduction of the budget allocated to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa in 2016 and 2017, which is not in line with the foreseen increase of displacement figures in Africa and the lack of durable solutions;

25. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and unearmarked financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate;

26. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

27. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

28. *Expresses* grave concern about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[12] notes the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

29. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Council and the General Assembly;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

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[12] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Albania, Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-sixth session[2] and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing deep concern that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

Noting with grave concern that, despite the tremendous generosity of host States and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

Recognizing that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/70/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/70/12/Add.1).

Please recycle

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner,

Commending the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and of its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

Underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-sixth session;[2]

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process, and welcomes the adoption of the decision on a multi-year workplan for Executive Committee conclusions;[3]

4. *Appreciates* the convening of the high-level segment on the Afghan refugee situation of the sixty-sixth plenary session of the Executive Committee, welcomes the statement adopted by the States members of the Executive Committee on 7 October 2015,[4] commends the efforts of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner, to align policies, strategies and plans for voluntary repatriation and reintegration in the country of origin, as well as assistance and continued protection for refugees in host countries, and urges donors, development and humanitarian actors, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society to render their unequivocal support to enhance reintegration and absorption capacity in areas of return, while also supporting refugees and host communities;

5. *Recalls* the high-level segments of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth plenary sessions of the Executive Committee, renews its call upon all States to provide the necessary support with a view to sharing the burden of the host countries, and underscores the critical importance of development support for host communities;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its recognition of the needs of, among others, refugees and internally displaced persons, and urges its full implementation;

7. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[6] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[7] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States

[3] Ibid., chap. III, sect. E.
[4] Ibid., annex II.
[5] Resolution 70/1.
[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[7] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

8. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[6] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[7] to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden-sharing;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action on 3 December 2014 by Latin American and Caribbean States, appreciates the commitment therein to implementing innovative solutions for refugees, displaced persons and stateless persons, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to work with the States concerned in their implementation;

11. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[8] and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness[9] and notes that 86 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 64 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

12. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in this regard welcomes the global campaign to end statelessness within a decade and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and welcomes efforts that have been made by States in this regard;

13. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

14. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of

[8] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.
[9] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

15. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue responding adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the measures taken by the Office to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue its efforts to further strengthen its emergency capacity and thereby ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

16. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the leading entity of the cluster for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

17. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 69/135 of 12 December 2014 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

18. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the articulation of the refugee coordination model;

19. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the "Delivering as one" initiative;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken and efficiencies gained in the process of structural and management change to reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of persons of concern, including identifying unmet needs, and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

21. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

22. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

23. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

24. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

25. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

26. *Notes with concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

27. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed to as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

28. *Expresses concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great lifesaving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

29. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

30. *Expresses deep concern* about the long-term impact of cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and in this regard calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

31. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

32. *Expresses appreciation* for the convening of the World Education Forum at Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 22 May 2015, notes with concern that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and takes note of the commitment in the Incheon Declaration to developing more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

33. *Notes* efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

34. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

35. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

36. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

37. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

38. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable,

timely and voluntary return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

39. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, and encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

40. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host States to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

41. *Calls upon* States to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and other forms of humanitarian admission, recognizes the need to further increase the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes and to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees;

42. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

43. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

44. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

45. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

46. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

47. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

48. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

49. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[10] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

50. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

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[10] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

United Nations A/C.3/70/L.64

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Agenda item 72 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Russian Federation: amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.54

Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

In operative paragraph 12, delete the words ", and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation".

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